

AVAILABILITY COMMITTEE - FREDERICK COUNTY HEALTH CARE COALITION

Meeting Summary

August 22, 2007

Attendees: Teresa Cunningham, Amy Gunnarson, Leigh Joos, Renee Kytte, Dr. Marilea Miller, Jim Williams
Pat Hanberry – guest speaker

Review of 6/27/07 Availability Meeting Summary – Members interested in assisting with the dental survey were asked to confirm their commitment and the number of dentists they are willing to contact; members not at the meeting should contact Monica Grant at Mgrant@fredco-md.net ASAP. Monica expects to have a brief “orientation” for survey volunteers in the near future. Survey data needs to be collected in September.

211 Program – Pat Hanberry, CEO of the Mental Health Association of Frederick County shared information about this comprehensive 24/7 health and human service referral phone line with tele-interpreter service available. Informational flyers were distributed and will be sent via email following the meeting. Members are encouraged to “spread the word” about this very useful resource.

Executive Committee Update – Summary of last meeting given by Jim Williams. The question of individual vs. agency members as related to a possible dues structure was discussed briefly; the general consensus by members seems to be that dues should not be imposed at this time. The Availability Committee members present were enthusiastic about the possibility of creating a Health Care Coalition fund through the Community Foundation which would be able to accept donations and act as a fiscal agent in the grant application process. The next Exec. Committee meeting will be Sept 4th. The next large coalition meeting is expected to be held October 3rd (tentative) at which time results from the community health needs assessment will be shared.

MCOs – Potential for future speakers/further investigation – Discussion of concerns that many residents who have Medical Assistance are unable to find local providers accepting new patients; the committee thought it might be helpful to become more familiar with the process providers must undertake to accept various MCOs and possible obstacles to that process. A representative of United Health Care who works to recruit/enroll providers has agreed to speak with us; Leigh will arrange this for an upcoming meeting.

Availability Resource Guide – Feedback on the draft was positive; the group addressed some of the following questions/suggestions:

Include more financial eligibility information? Since this often changes and can involve multiple variables (family size, assets, expenses), the group felt that adding more specifics would be cumbersome and could discourage potentially eligible residents from inquiring about and possibly receiving assistance

More specific info about interpreter services? Since the listed providers are required to or have access to interpreter services, it was decided to insert a general statement regarding this provision

Who is the intended audience for this document? The committee believes that this guide will be most useful for professionals/individuals assisting those without health insurance; the committee felt that the 211 line would be an important resource for consumers seeking assistance especially since it “asks the second question” (per Pat Hanberry) to specifically identify which resources might be most beneficial

Second page/practices accepting various MCOs? Since this changes frequently and there are often qualifiers (i.e. no new patients, only newborns, etc.), it was felt that this information should not be included; it was suggested that a more general explanation of Medical Assistance be included with contact information provided for further assistance/application questions

The committee made a few changes in the first page but did not have time to revise the second page. Members are asked to review the revised draft and make comments prior to the next meeting. It is hoped that the guide will be finalized at the September meeting so that it can be shared at the large coalition meeting in October

Next meeting – September 26th, 4-5:30 at FMH